

3 Washington Ave,
Stells Beach.

Christmas Greetings to you all from the Callaghans.

We trust that you have had a blessed and fruitful year and that 1984 will be even better. As we approach another Christmas our prayer for you is that you will be drawn closer to the One whose birth we celebrate:

'and they shall call His name Emmanuel: God with us.'

1983 has been for us, the most difficult year we have ever faced. We have learnt a lot about various branches of medicine as it seems we have gone from one medical crisis to the next. These have included:

- Kathy's nephew, Simon developing leukemia
- the death of the lady next door
- Ross's parents being ill at various times
- Philip losing the end of his little finger in a door
(It has grown back amazingly well)
- Debbie losing her big toenail

But overshadowing all has been Ross's voice problem. A sore throat and a weakening voice in the first term ended up in three stays in Green Lane Hospital for three operations on his vocal cords and one on his nose. The problem was caused by small nodes on the vocal cords, apparently the result of not speaking correctly and of overuse of the voice. It is supposed to be an occupational hazard of teachers, singers, and preachers. He qualified on all counts! Regular speech therapy has been most interesting and has helped but the voice is still not very good.

As a result of all this Ross has not worked since May and has been on sick leave. The future for us is not clear as it could mean that teaching is over for good. While we are hoping to return to school next year we are also looking at the possibility of purchasing a horticultural property and 'growing things'. At the moment all we can do is trust God that He knows what is best for us and that He is leading us into more fruitful times in the future.

The voice situation has also curtailed our ministry opportunities although Ross did lead a home group in the first term and spoke at a family camp in Wellford. Both of these were precious times.

While not teaching Ross has continued to develop the horticulture unit at school and has set up a rock garden, orchard, lawn etc. As well he has written a number of booklets for the Education Department which will be a great help to horticulture teachers.

KATHY: Most of the year has been spent nursing all the patients! In her spare time she has been having piano lessons and is very pleased with her progress. She has also been continuing demonstrating Tri-chen.

DEBBIE: She has been in Std 1 this year and has done very well at school. Her life is very full and she is always on the go. She has been involved in Sunday School, Adventure Club, Childrens Club and athletics. She really enjoys playing the recorder and has just had her first major haircut.

SARAH: She has been going to Kindergarten and will start school at the beginning of next year. She plays well on her own and is a bit shy but is getting more confident. She goes to Sunday School and athletics.

PHILIP: He is 2 now and is beginning to talk so that he can be understood! He has a lovely nature and really enjoys playing with trucks. He was a marvellous patient when he hurt his finger.

Well that's the news for this year. Although we have been through some hard times we knew that the Lord is in control and that He has proved Himself to be trustworthy.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a happy holiday.